

## Ashover Tree Group

### Summary of meeting: 20 September 2018

The Minutes of last meeting on 12 July 2018 were agreed with actions carried forward as follows:

#### 1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- 1.1 Our plans to re-survey NEDCC's TPO plans have been described in previous Minutes.
- 1.2 NEDCC provided us with CD records of their latest TPO records from which we have produced hard copies. There is a need to validate these as the plans and schedules don't marry up in every case – some have one and not the other.
- 1.3 We are progressing the extrapolation of TPO data onto A4 size maps of the parish.
- 1.4 Noted that there may be local trees in the parish, currently lacking TPO protection, which might be suitable for nomination. We have details of the process to follow

#### 2. Expert input

Currently no speakers lined up for future meetings but we can review this later in the year. *Note*

#### 3. Planning applications

Planning applications. Status of current, relevant, applications is as follows:

- 3.1 Narrowley's Lane. Start date for development seems to have been delayed by newt surveys
- 3.2 Ravensnest – Butterley. Rumoured there has been an application to remove bushes/hedges (3 x hawthorns?) Unclear whether there are obligations to report such intentions. Need to monitor for any formal applications. No developments.

#### 4. Milltown conservation area

This initiative arose from a possible future planning application for 6 houses which could have an impact on both trees and archaeology. A group walkabout took place on 24 May to form views. A proposal for future submission to NEDCC is being developed and input status is as follows:

- Plans/maps have been assembled/ drafted. Agreed that aerial photos will help clarity in our proposal.
- An historic overview of the area including railway, industry etc has been drafted
- A local family has been giving thought to the tree population on their land and are working with DEFRA on a 10-year scheme. Agreed we leave them to progress this
- An overview of footpaths through the area is being put together. Noted that the access status of Back Lane is under formal review with a recommendation it become a bridleway
- Input on flowers and fauna is being prepared

Agreed that rather than develop a fully-fledged case for SSI status for the whole area we should initially focus on securing blanket TPO protection for the smaller area of land highlighted on our map. To help build our case for submission to NEDDC (we already have a point of contact and guidance notes) we will now:

- Refine map of the proposed area which includes part of Cocking Spring Wood.
- Overlay the map with location and details of existing TPO protected trees.
- Obtain aerial photos.
- Develop narrative to support the proposal

Noted that when drawing up the proposal we should cross-refer to the conservation element of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as ensuring we have clarity of ownership of those parcels of land falling within the proposed conservation boundary.

#### 5. Member reports for the areas they represent around Ashover.

Highboredish. Nothing to report.

Ashover Show-ground.

The Tree Warden has carried out a survey of the Show field to plot what's there at the moment, showing the types of tree and current condition. Alongside the tree survey report this will help us shape a proposal for the land-owner and the Show Committee on what a programme of additional planting might look like. See also Item 6 below regarding WW1 Commemoration.

Kelstedge. Nothing to report.

Fabrick. Nothing to report.

Great Eastern Plantation. Nothing to report.

Milltown. See section 4 above.

#### 6. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings available for re-planting around the parish

#### 7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties continue. Current focus is limited to brash clearance on the slopes above Demonsdale though limited progress due to the recent exceptionally hot weather.

Working party activity will extend to cover other parcels of common land once our review is complete. See 9 below.

#### 8. 2018 centenary marking the end of WW1

**Proposal:** Our proposal is to mark this year's anniversary with a screen of trees, perhaps poplars, running along the fence-line from the Black Swan towards the Fabrick and accompanied by a suitable plaque.

This was raised with the Parish Council who confirmed in-principle support subject to approval from Ashover Show Committee who own the land. Initial costings have been provided to the Parish Council.

**Engagement with School.** Initial contact made and a meeting is scheduled for 27 September.

**Response from Ashover Show Committee.** Unfortunately, the committee refused their support for reasons which were felt to be unconvincing. Our secretary has appealed against their decision and they have agreed to review at their full committee meeting in early October.

#### 9. Common Land.

Maps and supporting schedules from the Parish Council have been put together. Visits under way to draft profiles, identifying those suitable for tidy-up by the working party.

#### 10. AOB - None

**Date of next meeting:** 7.30, Thursday, 15 November 2018 at the Crispin.

ATG/MT/13.7.18